

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

AMY NOTTINGHAM,

§

Plaintiff,

§

v.

§

OXY, INC.,

§

Defendant.

§

CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:13-cv-01894

AGREED PROTECTIVE ORDER

Upon motion of all the parties for a Protective Order pursuant to Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. All Confidential Information produced or exchanged in the course of this litigation shall be used solely for the purpose of preparation and trial of this litigation and for no other purpose whatsoever, and shall not be disclosed to any person except in accordance with the terms hereof.
2. "Confidential Information," as used herein, means any information of any type, kind, or character which is designated as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") by any of the supplying or receiving parties, whether it be a document, information contained in a document, information revealed during a deposition, information revealed in an interrogatory answer, or otherwise. In designating information as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only"), a party will make such designation only as to the information that it in good faith believes contains Confidential Information. Information or material which is available to the public, including catalogues, advertising materials, and the like, shall not be classified as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only").
3. "Qualified Persons," as used herein, means:
 - a. Attorneys of record for the parties in this litigation, paralegals, and employees of such attorneys to whom it is necessary that the material be shown for purposes of this litigation;
 - b. Actual or potential independent technical experts or consultants who have signed a document agreeing to be bound by the terms of this protective order (such signed document to be served on the opposing party);
 - c. The party or a party representative (in cases where the party is a legal entity);

- d. Court personnel, including but not limited to, court reporters/videographers;
- e. Any other person designated as a Qualified Person by written stipulations of the parties or by order of this Court, after notice to the parties and a hearing; and
- f. Deponents and witnesses from whom either party may desire to elicit testimony regarding the "Confidential Information."

4. Documents produced in this action may be designated by any party or parties as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") information by marking each page of the document(s) so designated with a stamp stating "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only").

In lieu of marking the original of a document, if the original is not produced, the designating party may mark the copies that are produced or exchanged. Originals shall be preserved and made available for inspection upon request.

5. Information disclosed at (a) the deposition of a party or one of its present or former officers, directors, employees, agents or independent experts retained by counsel for the purpose of this litigation, or (b) the deposition of a third party (which information pertains to a party) may be designated by any party as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") information by indicating on the record at the deposition that the testimony is "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") and is subject to the provisions of this Order.

Any party may also designate information disclosed at such deposition as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") by notifying all of the parties in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of the transcript of the specific pages and lines of the transcript which should be treated as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") thereafter. Each party shall attach a copy of such written notice or notices to the face of the transcript and each copy thereof in his possession, custody, or control.

To the extent possible, the court reporter shall segregate into separate transcripts information designated as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") with blank, consecutively-numbered pages being provided in a non-designated original transcript. The separate transcript containing "Confidential" and/or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") information shall have page numbers that correspond to the blank pages in the original transcript.

6. a. "Confidential Information" shall not be disclosed or made available by the receiving party to persons other than Qualified Persons. Information designated as "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") shall be restricted in circulation to Qualified Persons described in Paragraphs 3(a) and (b) above.

b. Copies of "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") information provided to a receiving party shall be maintained in the offices of outside counsel for Plaintiff(s) and Defendant(s). Any documents produced in this litigation, regardless of classification, which are provided to Qualified Persons of Paragraph 3(b) above shall be maintained only at the offices of such Qualified Person, and only working copies shall be made of any such documents. Copies may be made of documents produced under this Protective Order, and exhibits may be prepared by independent copy services, printers, or illustrators for the purpose of this litigation.

c. Each party's outside counsel shall maintain a log of all copies of "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") documents which are delivered to any one or more Qualified Persons of Paragraph 3 above.

7. Documents previously produced shall be retroactively designated by notice in writing of the designated class of each document by Bates number within thirty (30) days of the entry of this order. Documents unintentionally produced without designation as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") may be retroactively designated in the same manner and shall be treated appropriately from the date written notice of the designation is provided to the receiving party.

Documents to be inspected shall be treated as "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") during inspection. At the time of copying for the receiving parties, such inspected documents shall be stamped prominently "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") by the producing party.

8. Nothing herein shall prevent disclosure beyond the terms of this order if each party designating the information as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") consents to such disclosure or, if the court, after notice to all affected parties, orders such disclosures. Nor shall anything herein prevent any counsel of record from utilizing "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") information in the examination or cross-examination of any person who is indicated on the document as being an author, source, or recipient of the "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") information, irrespective of which party produced such information.

9. A party shall not be obligated to challenge the propriety of a designation as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") at the time made, and a failure to do so shall not preclude a subsequent challenge thereto. In the event any party to this litigation disagrees at any state of these proceedings with the designation by the designating party of any information as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") or the designation of any person as a Qualified Person, the parties shall first try to resolve such dispute in good faith on an informal basis, such as by production of redacted copies. If the dispute cannot be resolved, the objecting party may invoke this Protective Order by objecting in writing to the party who has designated the document or information as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only"). The designating party shall be required to move the Court for an order preserving the designated status of such information within fourteen (14) days of

receipt of the written objection, and failure to do so shall constitute a termination of the restricted status of such item.

The parties may provide for exceptions to this Agreed Protective Order by written stipulation signed by both parties, and any party may seek an order of this Court modifying this Agreed Protective Order.

10. Nothing shall be designated as "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") except information of the most sensitive nature, including: (1) sensitive information contained in personnel records or files maintained by Defendant; and (2) sensitive information which, if disclosed to persons of expertise in the area, would reveal significant technical or business advantages of the producing or designating party, and which includes as a major portion subject matter which is believed to be unknown to the opposing party or parties, or any of the employees of the corporate parties. Nothing shall be regarded as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") if it is information that either:

- a. is in the public domain at the time of disclosure, as evidenced by a written document;
- b. becomes part of the public domain through no fault of the other party, as evidenced by a written document;
- c. the receiving party can show by written document that the information was in its rightful and lawful possession at the time of disclosure; or
- d. the receiving party lawfully receives such information at a later date from a third party without restriction as to disclosure, provided such third party has the right to make the disclosure to the receiving party.

11. In the event a party wishes to use any "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") information in any affidavits, briefs, memoranda of law, or other papers filed in Court in this litigation, such "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") information used therein shall be filed under seal with the Court.

12. The Clerk of this Court is directed to maintain under seal all documents and transcripts of deposition testimony and answers to interrogatories, admissions, and other pleadings filed under seal with the Court in this litigation which have been designated in whole or in part as "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") information by a party to this action, until further ordered.

13. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties or ordered by the Court, all proceedings involving or relating to documents or any other information shall be subject to the provisions of this order.

14. Upon written request, within one hundred twenty (120) days after conclusion of this

litigation and any appeal thereof, any document and all reproductions of documents produced by a party in the possession of any of the persons qualified under Paragraphs 3(a) through (f) above shall be returned to the producing party, except for those documents which must be retained by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in accordance with federal law, or to the extent such information was used as evidence at trial, or as otherwise ordered by this Court. As far as the provisions of any protective orders entered in this action restrict the communication and use of the documents produced thereunder, such orders shall continue to be binding after the conclusion of this litigation, except (a) there shall be no restriction on documents that are used as exhibits in Court, unless such exhibits were filed under seal, and (b) a party may seek either the written permission of the producing party or order of the Court with respect to dissolution or modification of this Agreed Protective Order.

15. This order shall not bar any attorney herein in the course of rendering advice to his or her client with respect to this litigation from conveying to any party client his or her evaluation in a general way of "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") information produced or exchanged herein; provided, however, that in rendering such advice and otherwise communicating with his or her client, the attorney shall not disclose the specific contents of any "Confidential" or "For Counsel Only" (or "Attorneys' Eyes Only") information produced by another party herein, which disclosure would be contrary to the terms of this Agreed Protective Order.

16. Any party designating any person as a Qualified Person shall have the duty to reasonably ensure that such person observes the terms of this Agreed Protective Order and shall be responsible upon breach of such duty for the failure of such person to observe the terms of this Protective Order.

SIGNED on this 20nd day of May, 2014.



Kenneth M. Hoyt
United States District Judge